

# PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



Speaker: Hon. Kathleen M. Casey

Published by Order of the Legislature

## Standing Committee on Social Development

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**DATE OF HEARING:** 10 JANUARY 2008

**MEETING STATUS:** PUBLIC

**LOCATION:** POPE ROOM, COLES BUILDING, CHARLOTTETOWN

**SUBJECT:** ISSUE LIST AND WORK PLAN

**COMMITTEE:**

Janice Sherry, MLA Summerside-Wilmot (Chair)  
Jim Bagnall, MLA Montague-Kilmuir  
Paula Biggar, MLA Tyne Valley-Linkletter  
Michael Currie, MLA Georgetown-St. Peters  
Sonny Gallant, MLA Evangeline-Miscouche  
Robert Henderson, MLA O'Leary-Inverness  
Alan McIsaac, MLA Vernon Rover-Stratford, replaces Neil LeClair, Minister of Agriculture  
Pat Murphy, MLA Alberton-Roseville, replaces Cynthia Dunsford, MLA Stratford-Kinlock

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Cynthia Dunsford, MLA Stratford-Kinlock  
Neil LeClair, Minister of Agriculture

**GUESTS:**

none

**STAFF:**

Marian Johnston, Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees  
Melissa Keefe, Committee Clerk  
Ryan Conway, Research Officer

The Committee met at 1:30 p.m.

**Chair (Sherry):** We'll get started, call the meeting to order, and welcome all committee members here this afternoon.

I guess the first order of business is to adopt the agenda as it's read.

Everybody in favour, say 'aye.'

**Some Hon. Members:** Aye!

**Chair:** Okay.

We had a number of issues on the table for discussion, issues to be considered - and there are a lot of them - and the amount of work around each one of them will be quite weighty, I would think. So I guess the first thing I would like for us to discuss today is the order in which we want to approach these topics.

Sonny Gallant.

**Mr. Gallant:** That being said, I think looking at it, and what we've seen in the media and what we've heard from our constituents, maybe we should be looking at the high cost of energy as a priority right now.

**Chair:** I agree with that.

**Ms. Biggar:** The services that go with that.

**Chair:** Is everybody around the table okay with putting the high home heating cost as a priority discussion?

**Some Hon. Members:** Yes.

**Mr. M. Currie:** Are you discussing that today?

**Chair:** I think what we'll do is we'll prioritize these. I think the important thing is

to realize that we have a very limited time before the House comes back, opening at the end of March. It would be nice as a group if we could accomplish a couple of solid things before we go back into the House.

**Mr. Bagnall:** We're opening the end of March then, right? Is that what you're saying?

**Chair:** No, at the end of - I would think that it's pretty much agreeable that before the first of April the House will be back in session, so it doesn't give us a lot of time, unless I'm misinformed somehow.

**An Hon. Member:** If it were to open at that point (Indistinct).

**Chair:** If it were to open at that point it would nice to have some work completed, yes.

I certainly think that the majority feels that the home heating costs should be the first priority. Anybody have a second choice?

**Mr. Henderson:** I guess for me it would be number six, aging parents with disabled children, although I know there's -

**Ms. Biggar:** Me as well.

**Mr. Henderson:** This is a big issue in the west, I know.

**Ms. Biggar:** It's a big issue. And east it's a big issue.

**Chair:** Okay. Anybody in disagreement with choosing aging parents with disabled adult children as topic number two?

I guess we can be safe to say that that would be our second.

The other part of that is I would like to put it forth that we leave these two in priority position, starting with the high home heating

costs and then moving into the aging parents, and leave the rest of those topics in a bank until after we look at the first two and then decide where we go from there.

**Mr. M. Currie:** Madam Chair, if I may?

One issue I guess that's come up I think is the testing in the schools. Certainly it's got our phones ringing a little bit in regards to people don't understand it. Is there any way that we could have the minister come in and do a presentation on this testing of schools and students, to I guess give us an education on it?

**Chair:** Are you asking that we put that in third place here?

**Mr. M. Currie:** I'm asking that it be put on the list. It doesn't matter where you put it on here, it's just that I think it'd be fitting if the minister could come in.

**Mr. Bagnall:** I don't know about you guys but I've got calls on it asking me about it. Can you tell me how the testing was done? Can anybody around this table tell us how the testing was done?

**Ms. Biggar:** Linda Lowther actually, I think, would be able to give us a lot more detail on the testing process. I know, having worked in schools, she was in there and done a number of presentations to the PEI TF staff on the assessment process.

**Mr. Bagnall:** I think it falls with the minister. He's going to have (Indistinct) one way or the other. I think we should have the minister come in and give us a full update on the testing. It's out public now. If you're asked a question today, Alan, can you tell them how the testing was done?

**Mr. McIsaac:** Basically what my wife told me.

**Mr. Bagnall:** So you got third party the

same as I have. I've got some stuff on it too, but I don't - and I think the minister would be -

**Chair:** I think that point is well taken, Mr. Bagnall, and I think that if we want to put that on our list that we can certainly add it to our list.

**Mr. M. Currie:** I'd appreciate that, thank you.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Thank you.

**Chair:** We will make note of that, and when we finish going through these two then we'll certainly take the remainder of the list and choose from the list where we will move next. Is everybody okay with that?

**Mr. M. Currie:** Great.

**Ms. Biggar:** Just a note to the autism. I don't know if anybody saw today that there has been a breakthrough in the research -

**Chair:** Yes.

**Ms. Biggar:** - in the gene that affects that.

**Chair:** Yeah, it was on the national news either last night or the night before. Certainly I would see that as another huge priority for our committee personally. I don't know how other people feel about that. I would think that that would probably go third.

**Ms. Biggar:** Madam Chair, could I bring something up under the high home heating cost?

Something that also came to me through phone calls from a family of a disabled person is that over the holidays their furnace broke down. They had a brand new furnace installed in October. The company would not come over the holidays that installed it because there might be a cost, and because

they didn't have clearance from social services to incur that cost they would not come to check that furnace and see what was wrong. There was another oil company agreed to come and never showed up either because of the cost. We need to look - that's a great concern to me as to the fact that the oil companies are not responsive to people that are on social assistance in an emergency.

**Chair:** Mr. Currie.

**Mr. M. Currie:** I was in the oil business for 18 years. I'd be shocked if that ever took place because most of the -

**Ms. Biggar:** Well, it did take place.

**Mr. M. Currie:** - and it's unfortunate that it did. If people out there don't have the sympathy and compassion to deal with people, whether they're low income or disabled or not, you must have trouble sleeping.

Anyway, when I was in business what I used to do was set up individuals through social services on automatic and there were no problems. That's the way they wanted to do it. Some have problems because they want to educate them - the department of social services wants to educate them - to handle money and learn how to distribute it when you're given it each month. Well, that's fine. I'm not in business. I'm in business to service the client and I don't want to see them run out in the middle of the night. If you call me at 11:00 and say you should go and deliver now \$50 because that's all we're allotting, I say: You give me \$50 every month and I'll fill his tank or whatever it is.

**Ms. Biggar:** This wasn't in regard to running out of oil, though.

**Mr. M. Currie:** No, but even a service call. If somebody put it in and the government had paid for it, they should have called

somebody else and got it done because you can't be without heat.

**Ms. Biggar:** Two oil companies called and neither one showed up.

**Mr. Murphy:** But shouldn't that be something that social services should be -

**Mr. M. Currie:** Yes.

**Mr. Murphy:** You know what I mean?

**Mr. M. Currie:** There's a 24-hour number.

**Mr. Murphy:** They should contact social services and social services -

**Mr. M. Currie:** There's always somebody on call when you call that service number. I'm sure if -

**Ms. Biggar:** No, I called that service number and I got a voice mail.

**Mr. M. Currie:** They have to call you back.

**Ms. Biggar:** No.

**Mr. Bagnall:** What was the history -

**Chair:** I just want to stop you there for a second -

**Ms. Biggar:** I don't want to go into the details, but I'm just saying, if that's happening with people that are on social assistance, that they can't get a call unless they get clearance first from social services in case a cost is incurred, there is something wrong.

**Chair:** So I may suggest that maybe one of the presenters that we have come in would be people from income support to ask them some questions on how they're dealing with these issues.

**Ms. Biggar:** And the protocol.

**Chair:** And the protocol. Everybody okay with adding them to the list of possible - I just want to keep us in order here. I think, Alan, you had your -

**Mr. McIsaac:** My concern on this issue had to do with tagging these tanks. I know it had to be done I guess, but my tank, I had to get it tagged before I could get it filled this year. That's bloody expensive. I built the stand myself, farm welding course and all that kind of thing, but it's pretty solid. In fact, it's more solid than the stand I went and had to buy from a welding shop down here. I talked to Danny McInnis and he said for someone who had to make a complete change, on average it's \$1,100.

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. McIsaac:** That's absolutely ridiculous. You're talking about someone who can't get fuel in their tank or can't buy a full tank of fuel, it's \$1,100 before you get a drop in it.

**Mr. M. Currie:** It's \$1,700.

**Mr. McIsaac:** It's 1,100 on average, Danny told me.

**Mr. M. Currie:** Seventeen hundred.

**Mr. Bagnall:** What was that?

**Mr. M. Currie:** How much?

**Mr. McIsaac:** Eleven hundred. Eleven hundred on average.

**Mr. M. Currie:** To buy the tank and fill it?

**Chair:** Just get the tank.

**Mr. McIsaac:** No, get new tank, new stand, or whatever the situation is.

**Mr. M. Currie:** And remove the old one, yeah.

**Mr. Murphy:** It makes you wonder if there is any gouging took place because the cost of a tank seemed to go up whenever this -

**Mr. Bagnall:** Automatically.

**Mr. M. Currie:** They put double walls underneath them and some of them have different - to remove a tank and get it taken away and pump out the existing oil, there's labour and time invested in that, that's for sure. That's a service we use to provide for nothing when I was in business.

**Mr. McIsaac:** It cost me \$400 and I had the same tank.

**Mr. M. Currie:** Pardon?

**Mr. McIsaac:** It cost me \$400 and I had the same tank. Just a new stand and things like that.

**Ms. Biggar:** They're not interpreting all the regulations. Like, if you had your tank in before such-and-such a date it had to be so far off of the pad. I had a call from somebody: Oh no, you got to take that all out and get a whole new thing put in. When we looked at the date of the tank it happened that he didn't have to.

What, as you said, was the purpose of just saying everything has to come out when all you really needed to do was brace those legs. I'd rather take the whole system out and cut it off. Anyway, it's a big -

**Chair:** Mr. Bagnall, I think you had something you wanted to -

**Mr. Bagnall:** Okay, thank you.

**Chair:** You're welcome.

**Mr. Bagnall:** I was just saying we did get the tags extended there this past spring. But the problem is there really isn't an extension because insurance companies are saying:

Unless you have your tag we're not going to insure you. Insurance companies are out there - even though there's an extension, most people can't get their insurance unless they have their tank tagged. Saying that there's an extension is not helping the (Indistinct) because what's happening is the insurance companies have stepped in now and are saying: I'm sorry, we're not going to reinsure you unless your inspection is done, and if your inspection's not done we're not insuring you. Even though they've been given an extension they're really not getting it, and right at this time where heating costs are high. It's just putting an undue burden on the population out there.

The other part I was going to mention when we were talking about the assistance program there with not getting it, a lot of times we don't know the other side of the story. Because maybe that particular individual owes the oil company all kinds of money and they've been cut off and they won't deal with them any more. I know as being an MLA for the last ten years you get - they come in and they give you one side and when you go back and you investigate it out, you'll find there is another story at the other side why things aren't happening.

**Chair:** Again, there's probably some truth in that but I'm sure that list now is quite lengthy because I'm sure there is a lot of people who haven't been able to pay the cost of their oil.

**Mr. Bagnall:** It's going to get bigger too.

**Chair:** I guess looking at that and thinking that that's the direction we're going to go, I'm looking for suggestions on who the first presenters we should call and come in and talk with us. Any suggestions?

**Mr. Henderson:** Petroleum association.

**Mr. Bagnall:** I was going to say, or oil companies. Have the different companies

come in and explain the reasons why they won't go out unless it's so many dollars or that they have to have (Indistinct), if they're not on minimum why they get charged an extra amount to come in. Maybe that's the way to get the media attention into the oil companies about what they're actually doing.

**Chair:** So are you suggesting we ask the oil companies to come forward first?

**Mr. Bagnall:** I think that we should ask some of the major ones, Irving, Esso, Ultramar, a few of the bigger - Co-op maybe. They deal with them.

**Chair:** Okay, that's great.

**Mr. Murphy:** I think they have an association, do they? Because they have ads in the paper there asking to keep your walkways and that clean. They have a PEI Oil Dealers Association that we could probably ask.

**Chair:** PEI Petroleum Marketers Association?

**Mr. Murphy:** Yeah.

**Ms. Biggar:** The seniors federation.

**Mr. Murphy:** Island Regulatory and Appeals, see if there's anything that they could possibly do to help with the situation. I think Minister Brown was writing a letter or something to them there (Indistinct).

**Ms. Biggar:** I think, to get the other side of that, some of the questions, how are seniors affected? We could get the seniors federation in here just to get their input.

**Chair:** Seniors federation, Seniors Secretariat. Are you looking at the list that was -

**Ms. Biggar:** I am looking at this list. The

seniors federation, I would think, as opposed to the Seniors Secretariat.

**Chair:** We talk about low income families and those that are on assistance. Would we want to hear from anybody from income support?

**Mr. M. Currie:** Someone from there or social services, yes.

**Ms. Biggar:** I see you have PEI Petroleum Marketers Association on the list.

**Chair:** Yeah.

**Ms. Biggar:** Is that -

**Mr. M. Currie:** That's the representative of all the oil companies.

**Ms. Biggar:** Yes.

**Mr. M. Currie:** That's who will come.

**Ms. Biggar:** That's who we should get in. We should have someone in in regard to -

**Mr. Henderson:** The agent there (Indistinct) my riding would be Community Inclusions.

**Ms. Biggar:** They have Queens County Residential Services on there as well, Robert, but we should have -

**Mr. Henderson:** There is an Association of Community Living in O'Leary as well.

**Ms. Biggar:** There is the PEI association. I know the one in O'Leary, the community connections?

**Mr. Henderson:** Community Inclusions.

**Ms. Biggar:** Community Inclusions.

**Mr. Henderson:** Community Inclusion and Association of Community Living are two

different (Indistinct).

**Ms. Biggar:** Have done a study.

**Mr. Henderson:** They're two separate - and they have, yeah.

**Chair:** Community Connections as well would be another, is that what you're saying?

**Ms. Biggar:** Well, either one. I'm not sure how much study Community Connections has done on the topic of seniors, adult seniors with disabled children.

**Mr. Gallant:** Excuse me Madam Chairperson?

**Chair:** Can you hold for one second because I think Alan McIssac is ahead of you?

**Mr. McIsaac:** I just want top pres my point, I guess. I know these inspections had to go forward because we had to stop the spills. I'd like to know: Was it necessary to go to the extent they did? I know you never know which one's going to leak next. But on \$1,100 on average, a lot of people got - I'm not saying burnt, but they spent a lot of money to come up to standards. I'd like to know what actually the dollars were that were spent on that. Maybe we should have Danny McInnis in and talk about that program.

**Chair:** Is that from environment?

**Mr. McIsaac:** Yeah, it's environment. I'm really frustrated about the \$400 I had to spend. I had to put a cap over the end of my tank one year and the next year I had to change the stand and everything. I did all the work myself.

**Mr. M. Currie:** Yours is outside, is it, Alan?

**Mr. McIsaac:** Yeah, it's outside. Mine is feeding two different systems.

**Mr. Henderson:** How'd you get that inspected?

**Mr. McIsaac:** What?

**Mr. Henderson:** How did you get that inspected?

**Mr. McIsaac:** I made the call two or three times, I got turned down. Then I had to make the changes and inspect it again. But anyway, it's a lot of money, especially if you're on low income or farming like (Indistinct).

**Mr. Bagnall:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. McIsaac:** Anyway, I just (Indistinct).

**Ms. Biggar:** That ties in with the heating costs. Maybe we should have someone in from the department of environment to explain the rationale behind that program.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Maybe we should have the hardware stores come in and explain why the tanks doubled and tripled in price overnight after the legislation came into place.

**Chair:** So what have we got here? Do we want to prioritize those or are you just going to make some calls and see who we can get?

**Mr. Bagnall:** See who we can get?

**Chair:** Yeah, see who we can get.

**Mr. M. Currie:** High income, aging parents, and autism, is that what I understood?

**Chair:** Yeah. Just a second, Sonny wants to go.

**Mr. Gallant:** Could you read those back to

us, who you wrote down there for presenters?

**Committee Clerk:** We have the Prince Edward Island Petroleum Marketing Board, IRAC, seniors federation. Someone else had the Seniors Secretariat, who actually I spoke with today and agreed that they could come in on one of the dates that we have tentatively picked. So if you'd still like to hear from the Seniors Secretariat they're available. Someone from social services, Community Inclusions, Community Connection, Danny McInnis and/or people from the environment department to discuss the tagging of the oil tanks.

**Mr. Henderson:** I think you only have the PEI Association of Community Living. Did you mention them? I had said O'Leary Association for Community Living, but maybe the PEI one is good enough.

**Chair:** Okay.

**Ms. Biggar:** Contact them first and if they're not available to get - because they are the umbrella group for all the community living associations on PEI.

**Chair:** Should we start there and see if there's any - and there probably will be - an interest in some public meetings, do you think not? That there would be people from the general public who would like to come in and -

**Ms. Biggar:** I know I had a call -

**Mr. Bagnall:** Maybe we should meet with these first, though.

**Chair:** That's what I'm saying, that we would start with the presenters and then see what kind of information or feedback we start to get from the general public.

**Ms. Biggar:** Because I did have a call from Maple Leaf Seniors Curling Club - seniors



club, excuse me, in Kinkora around a couple of things that they were concerned about.

**Unidentified Speaker:** (Indistinct) energy costs?

**Ms. Biggar:** A number of different things, one of which is the cost share on the Seniors Home Repair Program that's there.

**Chair:** Yes, and I had that call.

**Ms. Biggar:** Not everybody can meet the 50% cost share, and their point was: Is there an option for those (Indistinct)? We need to look at maybe an option.

**Chair:** Does your income not have to be less than 30,000?

**Ms. Biggar:** Combined income.

**Chair:** Less than 30, yeah, household.

**Ms. Biggar:** Thirty, net.

**Mr. Henderson:** Not every program qualifies for every individual.

**Ms. Biggar:** I know.

**Mr. M. Currie:** Some would just be 31,000. (Indistinct). But you have to scratch a line in the sand somewhere.

**Ms. Biggar:** It's just a point that was raised with me with that seniors group.

**Chair:** Okay, anything else in regards to the high home heating cost presenters?

**Mr. Bagnall:** So our next meeting (Indistinct)? We're all set to roll on those, let's roll on them.

**Mr. M. Currie:** All I can say, Paula, is sometimes I wanted it to be 35,000 but the rest of them (Indistinct) wouldn't agree. (Indistinct). You'll remember that one.

**Ms. Biggar:** I'll remember that one. Yes, I try.

**Mr. Henderson:** Remember, he hung on, so maybe that's good advice.

**Chair:** Melissa is just sharing here that she may have difficulty getting presenters in for a meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Do you want me to or do you want Melissa to see if she can get four or five set up, or even four, and if she doesn't have any luck with that we would push it till the next week?

**Mr. M. Currie:** I don't think you'll have any problem with (Indistinct).

**Chair:** In the morning.

**Ms. Biggar:** I won't be available on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January.

**Chair:** Okay.

**Ms. Biggar:** That's all, but the rest of you -

**Chair:** Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Ms. Biggar:** Oh, okay.

**Chair:** So is everybody in agreement to that? Melissa will see is she can get a minimum of four. If we get four, are we still happy to go ahead with the meeting on -

**Ms. Biggar:** I think if we get two.

**Mr. Bagnall:** We'll go with one or two - two or three.

**Chair:** Okay, just in case she can't and we have to cancel at the last minute, everybody's okay with that?

**Some Hon. Members:** Yes.

**Chair:** All right.

The other thing before we get to the next

topic of discussion, if you look at the suggested list of upcoming meetings, we have the 17<sup>th</sup> of January, the 23<sup>rd</sup>, then not until the 12<sup>th</sup> of February. Are people interested in meeting on a weekly basis if we can, as opposed to every two weeks?

**Mr. M. Currie:** If you're going to have meetings and bring people in and then go to the public, you're going to have to have meetings.

**Chair:** I think that the issues are important enough that we do need to have a meeting every week.

**Ms. Biggar:** Fine with me.

**Mr. Bagnall:** January and the first two weeks of February I'm available. The last two weeks of February I'll be away. I don't mind meeting. I'll meet every second day if you want (Indistinct) those times. I'm going to be in every day.

**Committee Clerk:** Just so you know, we will probably have to have two committee meetings on some days, or you could go on Friday, possibly, or Mondays, which I know you typically have your own agendas on Monday. The schedule is so full it's going to have to be two meetings a day. If that's okay with everybody, there is no problem working it out. But just so you're aware.

**Ms. Biggar:** We'd have to drive down anyway, we may as well make it a full day when you're here.

**Chair:** That's right.

**Committee Clerk:** Is there a certain day of the week then that you want to try to keep those days? Like, do you want to try to keep it to Wednesday, Thursday for our meetings?

**Mr. Bagnall:** I'd like to keep it away from -

**Ms. Biggar:** I'd like to keep it away from Monday.

**Mr. Bagnall:** I'd like to keep to keep it away from as many two meetings a day as possible because our agenda is - we're tied up every afternoon pretty well with committee meetings that we have to have time to do some other stuff. If we're tied up in days all the time, full days, it makes it almost impossible to get anything else done. We don't mind meeting at least once - not a problem (Indistinct) but it's -

**Committee Clerk:** There are probably only maybe one or two weeks where we're going to have to have two committee meetings in the day. The rest we should be able to get one in. So it's not like every (Indistinct).

**Ms. Biggar:** It's hard to get back to your constituents when you're tied up in meetings.

**Mr. Bagnall:** I don't mind half a day, but I don't like the full day tied up.

**Mr. M. Currie:** If I may suggest that when you do call and ask individuals or companies if they want to come, if you keep it that we have a number of them, if you could come in and maybe talk for 20 minutes, make a presentation, and have ten minutes for questions, you can get through a lot of people here in an afternoon. But if you let them come in and ramble on all day they'll be here for an hour and 15 minutes, just love that -

**Mr. Bagnall:** Alan did a great job in agriculture keeping them at 15 minutes and pumping them through in 15 minute presentations. We did a lot.

**Ms. Biggar:** We had a lot yesterday, too, with economic development in a short time.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Another thing is maybe instead we don't mind if we're coming in for

a meeting, and we got a lot of people lined up to meet with us, coming at 1:00 and going through until 5:00 or 5:30, rather than having two meetings a day. We don't mind if you have to extend it because we're in for that afternoon anyway. So if it means staying an extra hour and a half to do - we could extend the meetings longer and we wouldn't need as many.

**Ms. Biggar:** I thought actually we had discussed starting at 1:00 but I see we're still back to 1:30 now. I thought we actually had discussed that way back in the fall.

**Committee Clerk:** We discussed that for one committee, I think, but we try to be as accommodating as possible. I know that yesterday for community affairs we had a lot of business people coming in and whatever. We want them to come in and they want to come in. We try to accommodate everyone as best we can.

**Ms. Biggar:** Oh yes, I understand that.

**Committee Clerk:** So -

**Ms. Biggar:** It's just something to discuss.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Like, 1 to 5:30, you can do an awful lot. That's almost as much as two days.

**Chair:** It definitely would be.

**Mr. Bagnall:** So instead of making two trips and having two meetings in a day -

**Chair:** Why don't we leave it as it is? Obviously we have a meeting for the next couple of weeks. We'll see where we're at at that time and maybe just mark (Indistinct) making good progress and we can continue on with how we have it set up. If we feel then we need to extend the meeting of the 12<sup>th</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup> or include another one in there, we can look at that at that time.

**Mr. M. Currie:** Sounds good.

**Chair:** Everybody okay with that?

**Some Hon. Members:** Yes.

**Chair:** Okay.

Let's move on to our next topic which is aging parents with disabled adult children. I certainly would open the floor in an orderly fashion for people to speak to the issue and feel they can share their (Indistinct).

**Mr. Henderson:** I thought we already -

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct).

**Chair:** Have you got all the ones that you want?

**Mr. Bagnall:** Yeah.

**Ms. Biggar:** I think so.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Number two, we're going to start with the first -

**Mr. M. Currie:** (Indistinct) number three and just let them - low income seniors, and then add the other one on about the testing or whatever.

**Ms. Biggar:** I see we had PEITF on here.

**Chair:** So do we want to stop there or do we want to make a plan for our autism?

**Mr. Bagnall:** I don't think we should do that yet, I think we should (Indistinct).

**Mr. Henderson:** You get too far ahead here you won't know what your schedule is going (Indistinct).

**Mr. Bagnall:** Let's handle the first two things and (Indistinct).

**Chair:** All right, that's good.

**Mr. M. Currie:** If I may, Madam Chair, on autism.

As you are all aware - every one of us has - everybody has a story to tell about their son or daughter. It would be better if somebody would represent the society and come in. Because you'll have 20 of them want to come and present. Every one of them has almost the same story and the difficulties they had with either health or education. I think if you -

**Ms. Biggar:** Unless we're having public meetings then -

**Mr. M. Currie:** They all want to come, I can assure you that they will.

**Mr. Henderson:** I think the way we did it in economic development was that we made the choices of these major groups to come and represent, and then we decided to have a couple of public meetings, and that's where individuals have the opportunity to come forward. That's the way I would suggest we would proceed, that you invite the groups as the Chair and then if we feel that there's overwhelming need and demand then maybe we can do a public meeting somewhere that we will just open it up.

**Chair:** I agree with that. I think that you'll get feedback from the public once they start to see that the topics are being discussed and presenters are coming in, and we'll have a very good indication if we need to go beyond this.

**Ms. Biggar:** Around the topic of disabled adult children, certainly Robbie and I have some very vocal people - they actually live in my district, but their daughter is a client at the O'Leary centre. Certainly that's an individual person, but the group -

**Chair:** Was there not a survey done, I'm going to say in the last four or five years, in regards to aging parents with adults?

**Ms. Biggar:** That's the one we're talking about that was just released.

**Mr. Henderson:** Community Inclusions, they just released it here back in August, I think. So they just completed their survey. It would be more Prince County, it wouldn't be Island for sure.

**Chair:** I know in my past life I was involved in that survey through Canadian Mental Health Association and I know there was a number of seniors that -

**Ms. Biggar:** I think it's very applicable in the eastern end of the Island as well.

**Chair:** Oh, for sure, yes.

**Ms. Biggar:** It's a very prevalent problem -

**Chair:** Everywhere.

**Ms. Biggar:** - in the rural areas especially, I know. Not that it isn't in the urban areas but it seems to be less access in the rural areas.

**Chair:** Okay, well.

**Mr. M. Currie:** Sounds good.

**Chair:** Anything else we want to discuss before we close for today?

**Mr. M. Currie:** Have a good weekend.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Move for adjournment.

**Chair:** Thanks everybody for your cooperation. It was great.

The Committee adjourned

